

New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] said, the Smith-Mundt Act of 1948, and I gather that was no relation to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], it was another Mr. Smith, but in 1948 to prevent the executive branch from using the U.S. Information Agency as a political tool, and it said that the film has to be around for 12 years before it can be shown initially in the United States.

We have passed any number of other pieces of legislation because of this restrictive law. The Thomas Jefferson papers show, which commemorated the 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth; we had a documentary about crimes against humanity regarding the conflict in Yugoslavia; we had a film called "The Long Way Home," about the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan; a tribute to Mickey Leland; photographs of military operations-related activities in the Republic of Vietnam for the purpose of developing and publishing military histories. All of these films served an important purpose, but they all had to get this kind of specific legislative authority before they could be shown in the United States.

The "Fragile Ring of Fire" is important because it will contribute to scholarly efforts and public awareness of these undersea issues. There are a number of private sector efforts going on to protect the world's coral reefs by revealing the incredible beauty and productivity of coral reefs in generating food, income, and employment to communities around the world. This film shows some stark examples of the environmental degradation that has occurred and highlights the most successful reef conservation programs. The filmmakers went all the way around the Florida keys, Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and shot some stunning underwater scenes in all of these locations. It is just so ironic that it cannot be shown in the United States.

Coral reefs are one of the most diverse and important of all natural ecosystems. They are considered the rain forests of the ocean. They are located within eight States, U.S. States and territories, and the third largest reef in the world is located next to the Florida keys. It spans 150 miles from the south of Miami to the Gulf of Mexico, and over 6 million tourists every year visit the keys to boat, fish, and snorkel and scuba dive and see more than 6,000 species of plants, fish, and invertebrates.

Because the keys are so important, not only commercially but because of protein they provide, any number of environmental contributions that coral reefs make, it is disturbing that 10 percent of the reefs have been lost already, and scientists estimate another 20 to 30 percent could be lost over the next 15 years.

That is why this is important to be shown. The State Department has a coral reef initiative that brings seven

countries together to more effectively manage coral reef ecosystems.

The Department of State already has a long list of organizations that want to participate in this within the United States, schools, museums, environmental groups, and they need to be able to show this film.

I cannot imagine any reason why all of the Members would not want them to be able to show this film, and, in fact, many of the Members may want to make it available to their school systems.

I do want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the ranking Democrat on the full committee, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, in moving this through the committee, and lastly, I want to put in a plug in recognition to the superb staff of the Committee on International Relations, Beth Ford and Kristen Gilley. They have done a terrific job, as well as Kris King, on my staff, who has followed this for months and made sure it got legislated, as well as putting all of these thoughts together.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do thank the gentleman for his kind words. It is a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2070.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule 1 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2070, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

THE FALL RIVER VISITOR CENTER ACT OF 1995

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 629) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the operation of certain visitor facilities associated with, but outside the boundaries of, Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 629

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "The Fall River Visitor Center Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS OUTSIDE AUTHORIZED BOUNDARY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK.

(a) VISITOR CENTER.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to collect and expend donated funds and expend appropriated funds for the operation and maintenance of a visitor center to be constructed for visitors to and administration of Rocky Mountain National Park with private funds on the privately owned lands described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PARCELS OF LAND.—The lands referred to in subsection (a) are described as follows:

Being land owned by H.W. Stewart, Inc., and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the north one-half of section 16, township 5 north, range 73 west of the sixth principal meridian, Colorado; thence south eighty-seven degrees six minutes east, eight hundred and fifty-four feet; thence north two degrees west, three hundred and forty-six and one-tenth feet to the south boundary of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 34; thence northwesterly along said south boundary nine hundred and sixty feet to the west line of said section 16; thence south along the west line of said section 16 to the point of beginning.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD].

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ALLARD asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, this bill was brought before the Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands last year but could not be moved forward because of concerns raised during the planning process. I am happy to report that all of those concerns have now been addressed and the proposal was approved by the Larimer County Planning Commission in January. The Larimer County Commissioners approved the plan in March. Finally, last year the Park Service suggested a technical change to the bill language which was incorporated into this year's bill. This legislation is a fine example of how the Government and private sector can work together and I appreciate the opportunity to bring the bill before the House today.

This bill is a simple piece of legislation, but one that will have a noticeable impact on the people who enjoy